



# Clark County

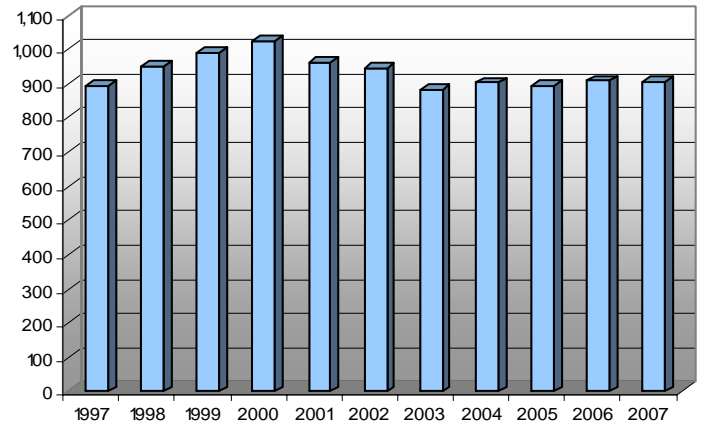
October 2008

## Work Force Trends

### Population

The most recent population estimates show Clark County as the smallest in the state with a population of just 920 in 2006. Over the past decade, the county has grown by 62, but the numbers show a wave-like effect with small variations except for the peak in 2000 at 1,027. Clark County has just one person for every two square miles, severely limiting its labor force.

The largest annual increase was 57 between 1997 and 1998. While there were modest fluctuations year to year, the county had a net loss of 107 people from its peak in 2000 to 2006. Clark County is highly dependent on agricultural activity and government jobs.

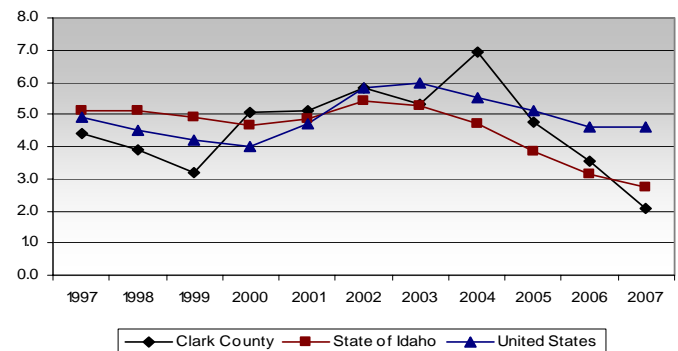


### Labor Force & Employment

Although Clark County has enjoyed one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, 2002 to 2005 had higher-than-normal rates. Due to its dependency on agriculture and government, such variables as water and tax collections had a significant effect on employment. The county unemployment rate was below the state and national rates during the last half of the 1990s but then jumped above both state and national rates in 2000 and stayed there until 2006 when it is almost at the state level. In 2004, the county rate surpassed both the state and nation by at least 2 percentage points. The last several years have been tough on the county's agriculturally dependent economy because of water shortages. The county experienced a steady decline in its labor force from 1996 to 2002 before it began slowly rebounding. The net civilian labor force loss over the decade was 107. With the average age of farmers rising, the county is gradually losing younger population to urban education and employment opportunities.

Farming is the largest industry in the county. Over 66 percent of the land is owned by the federal government with another 7 percent owned by the state. The majority is considered rangeland,

#### Unemployment Rates



and sheep are a large commodity. But farming is not included among the industries represented in the pie chart on the second page. Of those industries, manufacturing provides the most jobs, employing 40.6 percent. Two of the county's largest employers are Blaine Larsen Farms Inc., which produces and processes large quantities of hay, and RDO, which processes potatoes.

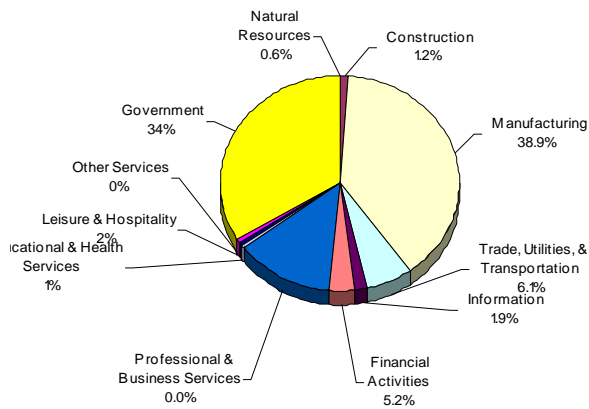
Government is the second largest industry, employing 34 percent of the workers including county and education jobs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Postal Service maintain offices in the county as do other small state and local agencies. Trade ranks third in industry size.

The county is located on the Montana border and includes part of the Continental Divide. The area is picturesque and serene and has not seen a lot of change over the decade.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	543	541
Total Employment	533	515
Unemployed	10	26
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.9	4.8
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	597	589	554	539	559	503	536	542	541	522	522
Unemployment	26	23	18	27	29	29	29	38	26	18	11
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	3.9	3.2	5.1	5.1	5.8	5.3	6.9	4.8	3.5	2.1
Employment	571	566	536	512	530	474	507	505	515	503	511

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



## Covered Employment & Wages

Covered employment includes employers who are subject to state and federal unemployment insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of Idaho's employers.

The number of workers in covered employment increased 19.5 percent, or 85 people, over the decade. Most of the increase was in manufacturing; but the specific information on this industry cannot be listed due to the limited number of employers. Average wages increased over \$11,780, or 65.1 percent, during the same time period. Wages in financial activities were up \$26,335 while those in government rose \$10,040 over the decade. Agriculture wages were cut by nearly a fourth to \$28,420 in just one year from 2005 to 2006, but employment remained constant.

## Major Employers

Blaine Larsen Farms, Inc.
Clark County
Clark County School District #161
Clark County True Value Hardware, Inc.
RDO
Scoggins Inc.
U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Eastern ID Occupational Wages\*

Occupational Wage	Average Wage
Cashiers	\$7.47
Farm Equipment Mechanics	\$12.12
Industrial Truck/Tractor Operators	\$11.25
Agricultural Workers	\$8.56
Food Processing Workers	\$11.30
Graders & Sorters, Agricultural Products	\$6.66
Packers & Packagers, Hand	\$9.00
Office Clerks, General	\$10.57
Retail Sales Workers	\$9.32
Truck Drivers, Light	\$11.15
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$13.97

\* Wage data includes 15 counties of Eastern Idaho. Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	492	\$18,493	522	\$29,867	541	\$31,134
<b>Agriculture</b>	13	\$12,334	46	\$28,420	56	\$26,956
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	*	*	0	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	*	*	6	\$36,809	5	\$37,562
<b>Manufacturing</b>	*	*	201	\$25,429	220	\$27,405
<b>Trade, Utilities, &amp; Transportation</b>	57	\$18,437	34	\$34,279	21	\$27,827
<b>Information</b>	*	*	9	\$35,066	*	*
<b>Financial Activities</b>	14	\$25,177	15	\$50,512	15	\$43,002
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	*	*	47	\$44,459	63	\$47,189
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	23	\$4,406	6	\$1,515	*	*
<b>Other Services</b>	*	*	4	\$12,958	*	*
<b>Government</b>	159	\$18,609	152	\$29,796	145	\$31,530

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Clark County</b>	\$23,201	\$21,283	\$23,598	\$23,322	\$28,241	\$24,886	\$25,074	\$25,939	\$25,571	\$24,649
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
<b>United States</b>	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:  
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